I.T. revolution by 'AKSHAYA'

428. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government sponsored community campaign named "Akshaya" has brought Information Technology revolution in the socially and economically backward district of Malappuram (Kerala) and the Commonwealth Union has reportedly offered help;

(b) whether out of 30,000 IT-literate, now 60 per cent are over the age of 50 years; and

(c) if so, in what way Government propose to disseminate the IT revolution to backward districts in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) A Pilot Project has been implemented by the Government of Kerala in 2 Blocks of Malappuram District under a Scheme of IT for Masses.

(b) As reported by the Government of Kerala, over 80,000 people have completed the e-literacy course through Akshaya centres. The details of age-wise classification of trainees have not been maintained.

(c) The Department of Information Technology has implemented the project of establishing 487 Community Information Centre (CICs) in the North-Eastern States for the rural Communities.

Non-functional telephone of Khirki Extension

429. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some lines of exchanges 2667 and 2668 of MTNL, New Delhi serving Khirki Extension area, have been switched to 2954;

(b) if so, the date from which transfer has taken place;

(c) whether it is also a fact that computer complaint service is not attending to the complaints of new numbers, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a large number of telephones in the area remained non-functional for more than seven days frequently during the current year; and

(e) if so, whether rental rebate to the affected subscribers has been allowed, where due, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The transfer has taken place with effect from 6th June, 2003.

(c) No, Sir. The computerised fault booking is operational even in the case of new numbers.

(d) and (e) 140 instances of telephones remaining faulty for more than 7 days have come to the notice of MTNL till 30th June, 2003. The delay in rectification was primarily due to cable breakdown. Rent rebate is allowed in the next billing cycle.

Complaint against telecom department

430. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been serious complaint against telecom department regarding its equipment being purchased and lying unutilized and order being placed without any justification;

(b) whether this has resulted in wastage of public funds worth rupees hundreds of crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been complaint, however, Telecom PSUs *viz.* MTNL and BSNL purchase equipments based on forecast of the requirement and justification and as per the